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losing it. He believes that by mild treatment these people may be made useful to us, and happy to themselves. They have found the folly of resistance, they are used to live low, "*facilem victu per secula gentem.*" Let them live, and live comfortably; they will not aspire higher; they will be hands and feet to us. Indeed all orders and classes of society want reformation. If the money laid out on spacious buildings, cultivating fine gardens and pleasure grounds, were some of it expended on cultivating the morals of the people, what a happy harvest of blessings would it not produce to the cultivators? If the rich did not insult the poor by their wanton extravagance and riot, the two orders of society would coalesce, and religious distinctions would not be so much as thought of."

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

OBSERVATIONS WHICH OCCURRED DURING A SHORT TOUR

BUSINESS called me to Dublin lately. To a reflecting mind, that city presents many subjects for contemplation and reflection. Dublin has had its share of the bankruptcies, which have afflicted the empire at large, and the mutual inquiry on two friends meeting was commonly, what bankruptcies have appeared this morning? Merchants high and low, tanners, *hotel-keepers* &c. &c filled the list. But few in accounting for the failures mounted up to the source, but attributed them to some local cause, with which their limited sphere of knowledge brought them into acquaintance. Some attributed them to lowering the duty on whiskey, and the consequent loss to the holders of whiskey and rum. With others an extension of the tanning trade had originated all those distressing evils. How the hotel keepers failed, I heard no particular solution beyond the general one, I fear too common to others, bad management, improvident expenditure, and living above income. But to save the trouble of thinking, there was one sweeping cause assigned, on which many deemed themselves competent to decide, and by the aid of which they very

comfortably threw the blame off themselves and their neighbours, and constituted an undefined charge. The union caused all the mischief. If they were asked how the union operated to produce such dismal effects, they were too much irritated by the presumed ignorance or insolence of the inquirer to think him worthy of an answer. But if they had deigned to enter into argument, perhaps the position would not have been very tenable. Failures in England and also in other parts of Ireland, confessedly not injured by the union, have not been less frequent. Dublin may have lost some of the demand for articles of luxury from the less general residence of the higher classes. But what then? Are those placed at the top of Burke's "Corinthian capital of polished society," the only or the chief supporters of trade, or the wealth and prosperity of a nation? No. Not one of these lends a hand to help to lift the overloaded waggon out of the mire, while the bulk of the people, instead of giving effectual assistance to extricate trade, are clamorous vainly, calling on Jupiter to lift the unwieldy machine out of the supposed gulph, which the union has occasioned. But the call will be in vain. In many parts of Ireland, we require to be fortified in habits of frugality, industry, and an economical husbanding of our resources. The fact is, the higher classes of society looking only to themselves, and to their fancied importance have spread the doctrine, that they essentially support the power of a nation, and the bulk of the people have too indolently reposed on the assertion, and gratuitously adopted the error, the offspring of overweening conceit in the first promulgators, and credulously adopted by their retainers, and dependents, who as trades people and shopkeepers appear to profit by them. But Adam Smith has clearly demonstrated, that the wealth of a nation is not to be estimated by the annual expenses of the luxurious classes, but by the funds destined to support labour and encourage industry, or in other words, by the capital employed in trade and agriculture. The nobleman who spends £10,000 a year,

only benefits the nation by the profit on the articles of his consumption, while the merchant or manufacturer who employs a like sum in trade, affords sinews to industry, and reserves his capital to produce future benefit in succeeding years. The funds of luxury are dissipated, but the funds of industry remain.

But as I was dissatisfied with the reasons assigned as the cause of bankruptcies, it is fitting to give my theory, which I shall endeavour to do in a few words, and trace the causes which led to the bankruptcies so general throughout Great Britain and Ireland. The system of commercial warfare of which the decrees of Bonaparte and the British orders in council formed the most prominent parts, unsettled trade, and forced capital out of its usual channels. The enterprize of merchants turned this capital into hazardous speculation, and caused trade to resemble the cast of a die, or the revolution of the lottery wheel. In the beginning prizes turned up in the lottery of speculation. Thus encouraged, the adventurers went on; latterly blanks have mostly succeeded; or in plain language, at the beginning articles of importation mostly rose, and consequently purchasers gained; and latterly by the partial and occasional uncertain supplies received from the Baltic and America, merchandize rapidly fell in value to the loss of the holders. An over-extended issue of paper currency gave increased facility to this spirit of speculation. To these causes we may add an increased expenditure unsupported by adequate profits, and an unwillingness to accommodate themselves to the pressure and difficulties of the times. Those conjoint causes will probably account for the numerous insolvencies on general principle, and give a clue which if followed up, will bring out of the labyrinth, and lead back to sound commercial policy, by retracing the errors, which have produced the present alarming and almost unexampled difficulties, to which the mercantile world has been exposed.

Before I dismiss this sketch of Dublin, let me allude to the disgusting scenes of drunkenness so shamefully

prevalent among the poorer classes. Walking through the streets in an evening, particularly on a Saturday, the spectacles of wretchedness and intoxication were so frequently to be met, as to raise mournful reflections on the depraved state of manners, and that shamelessness which characterized many females,

“Whose tattered garments spoke a varied wretchedness.”

In passing through Bishop street, I heard one of them express in a significant and appropriate slang, characteristic of Dublin manners in the lower classes, addressing herself to one of her miserable companions, “Sure I have been *on the batter* since last night.” Her countenance bore the blazing marks of intemperance and riot, “the human face divine,” was disfigured, and her mind utterly perverted, altogether exhibiting a miserable spectacle, and a personification of vice in its most hideous form. Such exhibitions are lamentably frequent; I never saw them more common in Dublin.

Some of the old trading streets struck me as in a state of great decay, but trade has moved to the eastward, and Westmoreland street, College-green, Grafton-street, &c. surpass the former splendor of Bride-street, Skinner row, &c. now rapidly declining.

I proceeded through some parts of the country in Leinster, and here also I had food for contemplation. I did not go merely to see the face of the country, and therefore I leave to others, a description of the beauties which it presented. I looked more to the cabins of the poor than to the vaunted improvements of the rich. I confess I am not disposed to view with admiration those costly displays of wealth which are sometimes misnamed the beauties of nature, but in my view they scarcely-deserve that name; for a showy plantation of trees is as much an effort of art, as a modern costly edifice. Some of my companions went to view an extensive demesne of this kind, and were highly delighted with the scenery. I brought back my recollection to the owner, a man now dead, who returned some years ago loaded with spoils

and enriched by his artifices as a commissary. He returns to his native country, purchases all the land he can find on sale in his vicinity, and thus vests the produce of all the blood and sinews he has been the means of wasting, and like a second William Rufus on a small scale drives off the poor from the cottages to make way for his improvements. Yet those who call themselves the lovers of nature and simplicity delight in those prospects without carrying their minds back to their origin.

"Here's the smell of blood still: all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten it."

SHAKESPEARE.

There is something more interesting to the friend of philanthropy to behold the cottages of the poor, even though to a fastidious eye they should appear mean, and be deficient in neatness rather than the ostentatious splendor which is too frequently purchased by dispossessing the poor of those habitations, which though not picturesque or *fitting to show as a picture*, are nevertheless necessary for their accommodation.

"The man of wealth and pride,
Takes up a space, that many poor supply'd,
Space for his lake, his park's extended bounds,

Space for his horses, equipage and hounds."

In the course of my tour I have seen gentlemen's seats so closely placed together, that not a cabin was to be seen for a considerable distance at which to inquire the road. In my view there is in such a state of a country a moral deformity which no beauty of prospect can compensate. Some years ago, after traversing the bleak hills near Bushmills in the county of Antrim, I shortly afterwards passed through the rich country of Meath, decorated by grand seats and embellished by art. I contrasted the situation of the two countries. Of Meath I might say in the language of Goldsmith.

"Small is the bliss, that sense alone bestows,

In florid beauty, groves and fields appear,

Man seems the only growth, that dwindles here."

While the hardy, and comparatively independent peasantry of Antrim, with a more barren soil, and a bleak si-

tuation, enjoyed many comforts of which the miserable cottager of Meath had no notion. The one burned straw, as a poor substitute for fuel, while his mountains afforded turf to the more independent little farmer of Ulster. The one was labourer to a great man, and the other had a small farm, by which he supported his family, and it by such a mode of parceling out land, he did not make the utmost farthing of his ground, he at least had more comfort. Like the Swiss, he had valuable enjoyments.

"Yet still, even here, content can spread a charm,

Redress the clime, and all its rage disarm.
Though poor the peasant's hut, his feasts though small,

He sees his little lot, the lot of all.

But calm, and bred in ignorance and toil,
Each wish contracting fits him to the soil.
Cheerful at morn he wakes from short repose,

Breathes the keen air, and carols as he goes;

At night returning, every labour sped,
He sits him down the monarch of a shed,
Smiles by his cheerful fire, and round surveys

His children's looks, that brighten at the blaze:

While his lov'd partner boastful of her hoard,

Displays the cleanly platter on the board."

Such a sight has more charms in my eyes, than the richest, or most highly ornamented demesne I have ever beheld. I have sometimes inquired into the cause of this fondness for prospect, and I attributed it to the love for pleasure very common in the youthful mind. I do not wish altogether to repress this fondness for pleasure, but it is necessary to keep it within bounds, that we may not be carried away by it. Without being a cynic it may be allowed to preach up a moderation in the *cruise after pleasure*, lest the very object in view be missed, and by falling into the error noticed by Young, disappointment finally succeed to a too highly raised expectation of pleasure.

"Self-flattered, inexperienced, high in hope,

When young with sanguine cheer, and streamers gay,

We cut our cable, launch into the world,
And fondly dream each wind and star our friend."

Let us accustom ourselves accurately to examine into the causes of our sensations, and before we suffer ourselves to be carried away by our first impressions, let us see if the things we admire, are really worth what they cost. Habits of reflection early adopted, and uniformly recurred to, strengthen the mind, and enable it to form a judgment with precision.

My view is not to give a regular essay, or a studied account of a tour. If I succeed in conveying an impression of my feelings during my late journey, and afford some materials to assist thought in reflecting minds, my object is answered. K.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A GENERAL AND COMPARATIVE VIEW
OF INSTITUTIONS, OR SCHOOLS FOR
THE RELIEF OF THE INDUSTRIOUS
BLIND.

LIVERPOOL.

Instituted as an Asylum, 1791, opened as
a School, 1800.

PUPILS.

*Their number when admitted, &c.
Boarders or not, &c.*

SEVENTY-EIGHT, generally exceed seventy, and are to be increased to one hundred, more males than females. Since the commencement in 1791, two hundred and forty one persons have been received.

Age. Admitted at twelve, and not after forty five (except musical pupils who may be taken in at eight, and above forty five, if they have received any previous instruction) are preferred between twelve and eighteen.

Not dieted, or lodged, but will be when the new buildings shall be completed. Have some allowance of provisions, and receive weekly money or wages, part of which in general is paid by friends or parishes.

A few supported entirely by their friends, are allowed to avail themselves of the benefits of the institution.

Hours of working, from six, morning in summer, and eight o'clock in winter, till six in summer, and five in winter, viz. two hours being allowed for meals.

Trades, Manufactures, Machinery.

Spinning, hamper and basket making, plating of sash line, and window cord,

weaving of worsted rugs, for hearths and carriages, and floor cloths, sacking, making sacks, list shoes, Foot-bears, points and gaskets from old ropes; sheeting, huckaback, tea-rugs, tarred and untarred lobby cloths.

Music. And to tune, quill, string and repair instruments, also to teach music, viz. on the organ and harpsichord (other instrument would rather tend to induce vagrant habits.)

Machinery. Besides looms and spinning wheels, a peculiar platting machine, and weaving geers for lobby cloths.

Most of the trades can be learned in two or three years, and several of them by the same person.

Income, Funds, and rate of Contribution.

	1807.	£.	s.	d.
Annual subscriptions	1080	9	0	
Donations and benefactions	686	1	0	
Legacies	514	1	0	
Found in poor-boxes	218	11	8½	
Allowances from parishes	419	10	7	
Interest on public securities and money in bank	152	13	11	
Gross product of goods manufactured and sold	1372	2	5	
Arrears and debts	224	19	5½	
	4699	13	1	
Balance on hand, at the end of last year	2402	18	10½	
	£7102	11	11½	

Gross value of goods manufactured, sold, and unsold 1542 19 5
Possess. £2000 stock, three per cents.
Rate of contributions. Subscriptions from one to three guineas, many half a guinea or less. Donations few above £100. Legacies, many very large, as £1000.

Expenditure.

	1807.	£.	s.	d.
For new buildings	1596	1	6	
Wages to pupils and teachers	832	2	5	
Six music masters, repairing instruments, music, &c.	151	5	5	
Provisions for the pupils, and used in the house	652	10	4	
Raw materials	979	10	11½	
Machinery	246	1	0	
Rewards to pupils	121	1	11½	
Articles for their use	37	4	2	
Salaries	185	18	0	
Coals, candles, printing, advertising, stamps, books, portorage, cartage, &c.	144	10	9½	
	4946	6	0½	
Balance on hand	2156	5	5	
	£7102	11	11½	

Officers, Teachers, &c.

A superintendant at one hundred guineas per annum. His wife and